

The Bugle



Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

June 2015

vol. 47 #3

Your JULY 4TH Celebration !

Come and Celebrate July 4th! Join in with our annual community parade, followed by magic and field games at our community pool. Fun activities for the entire family, all sponsored by your Civic Association.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OUR COMMUNITY PARADE

Strathmore Elementary School – 12 NOON

Registration at Noon — Parade at 12:30pm

Y'all are encouraged to join in!

The parade begins at Strathmore Elementary, heads up Beaverwood Lane to Birchtree Lane, then down Birchtree, and turns onto the footpath to go to the Pool Pavilion.



Paraders should register to ensure access to the magic show and field games.

Magic for You and Me – Michael Chamberlin, MAGICIAN

Pool Pavilion – 1:00 to 2:30 pm

Using music, comedy and magic, master magician MICHAEL CHAMBERLIN features dazzling takes on some of magic's most legendary effects, along with hilarious audience participation routines. The show provides fast-paced, original and spellbinding sorcery for the entire family! After the show, he will stroll the grounds and awe individuals with close-up mingle magic.



FIELD GAMES

Pool Grounds – 2:30 to 3:30 pm

The field fun and games begins at 2:30 pm. Try your hand at the water-balloon toss, sack race, three-legged race, and more. You can participate, whatever your age – senior, tween, junior, baby! Come out and enjoy!

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For Information or to help with the July 4th Celebration, please contact:

Bill Hammond	301-509-4621	Email: w.m.hammond@verizon.net
Harry Klapper	301-460-0159	Email: hjksbk@msn.com
Greg Miller	301-871-9412	Email: winstonhen@aol.com



The volunteer form can be found on page 22



THE BUGLE

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association Since 1969

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Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA)

P.O. Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20906

e-mail: Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org

Web site: www.strathmore-belpre.org

Annual SBPCA membership: \$18.00

The SBPCA is a voluntary association, funded by membership dues, that represents our community to County Government and various other groups such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation. The SBPCA also publishes *The Bugle*, organizes the annual Yard Sale and 4th of July festivities. The SBPCA Board of Directors meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Mid-County Community Recreation Center on Queensguard Road. The Civic Association's annual meeting is in November just before the BPRA annual meeting.

Civic Association Officers

President:	Nancy Bechtol	301 871-3679	Secretary:	Linda Bea	301 460-0497
Vice President:	Bill Hammond	301 871-5074	Treasurer:	John Bogasky	301 460 1604
			Webmaster:	Chris Jennison	301 538-5705

Civic Association Directors

Max Bronstein	301 460-3117	Lilla Hammond	301 871-5074	Chris Swan	301 871-1113
Elliot Chabot	301 871-1113	Harry Klapper	301 460-9645	Rita Vaught	206 406-2871
Frank Corrigan	301 460-1011	Maurice Potosky	301 460-9008		

Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA)

The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) is the homeowner's association for most of the Strathmore at Bel Pre properties. The BPRA runs our community's pool, tennis courts, volleyball courts, playground, picnic area, bath house, snack bar and pavilion, which are open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. BPRA Board & committee meetings are announced at <http://strathmore-belpre.org/bpra>. The Board normally meets at 7:30 pm on the last Wednesday of each month. The annual General Membership meeting is held one week before Thanksgiving Day at 7:30 pm.

Bel Pre Recreational Association Board of Trustees

Elliot Chabot (President)	(301) 871-1113	echabot@usa.net
Kim Watters (Vice President)	(301) 460-0054	kimwatters@live.com
Larry Vaught (Treasurer)	(240) 558-3814	l.vaught@comcast.net
Dan Keating (Secretary)	(301) 603-8162	dtkeats@gmail.com
Paulette Ladas	(301) 674-7742	pauletteladas@remax.net
Greg Miller	(301) 871-9412	winstonhen@aol.com
Kye Pak	(301) 460-4388	kye_pak@msn.com
Lou Ann Rector	(301) 603-8805	louannphs@hotmail.com
Billy Ruppert	(301) 871-0076	billyruppert@gmail.com

Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Brenda Henry (Administrative Assistant)	(301) 871-6298
Louisa Hoar (Pavilion reservations, tennis court keys & pool passes)	(301) 871-2954
Chris Jennison (Webmaster)	(301) 538-5705

The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association



Summer!!

This is absolutely the most wonderful time of year to live in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood! It is when our neighborhood comes alive with activity and chances to see and meet new neighbors or get reacquainted with the neighbors you haven't seen all winter. There is so much going on, that CHRIS and ELLIOT, your Bugle editors, need to produce back to back Bugles and this is no easy task!! They do so much for our neighborhood with our civic association, the BPRA, and the Aspen Hill Library, we are most fortunate that they call our neighborhood home! Our neighborhood is overflowing with activity by our swim team who planned the first ever 5K Run through our neighborhood. How fun is that!! They will have already completed half of their exciting season when you receive this edition of the Bugle.

Yard Sale – 34 Years! Entertainment Series! Oh my!



By the time you read this article we would have already hosted our 34th Annual Yard Sale in the pool parking lot and our first movie night inside the pool grounds. Your civic association has hosted the yard sale for 34 consecutive years. That is an amazing statistic in this day and age.

The cool thing though, is that your civic association is always trying new and different activities.

From this creativity came our **entertainment series**. CHRIS and ELLIOT, JOHN BOGASKY and ADAM SHEPARD are the ring leaders of this entertainment series, now in its third year. I encourage everyone to check it out this summer if you haven't been able to attend in years past. Movies and music programs are designed and produced for our enjoyment. This is such a great way to utilize our pool property for more than just swimming. We raise funding to support these programs so that we can offer them free of charge to our neighborhood. I can't thank our sponsors enough for providing us this opportunity and for seeing the value in supporting our neighborhood.

Neighborhood Diligence

The other wonderful thing about this time of year is that everyone is outside more, so we see each other and spend time catching up. It is so important in our neighborhood that we each look out for each other and take the time to help our neighbors if we can. The two recent multi-murder suburban tragedies are a sad reminder that crime can happen anywhere. We can help make our neighborhood safer by being diligent and looking out for one another. This is the kind of neighborhood we all want to live in and be a part of. We are so fortunate to have Montgomery County Police Detective, Kye Pak in our neighborhood! Through our List Serve, he always informs us in real-time of crime events in our neighborhood. If you are not on our List Serve, you really should join!!! It is how you will hear from Kye about any crime or other such problems in our neighborhood.

Website Needs YOU

Our website needs you!!! I am still looking for volunteers to help the Civic Association keep up with our wonderful website. Ever since ADAM SHEPARD left our area we have not been able to fill his shoes on the Civic Association Board. We are in desperate need of someone to assist us in keeping up with the information which needs to be put onto our website. CHRIS JENNISON is doing an amazing job managing our website as a volunteer, but we need our Civic Association activities and more on our website. Contact me if you are able to help with content for our website, please!

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Gleanings From Meetings + More

by Frank Corrigan

An Independent Transit Authority for the County?

In February 2015, the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) objected to the newly proposed Montgomery County Transit Authority, or ITA. County Executive LEGGETT sent this proposal to state legislators, but subsequently withdrew his request. The ITA would have enabled “transit funding” through a special taxing district, and giving the proposed authority independence from the County government. If approved, it would have enabled the County Executive to enter into contracts with other governments or private entities without any accountability to the taxpayers.

As written in a report by Harriet Quinn, of the MCCF Planning and Land Use Committee, “the County Executive recently asked his Transit Task Force to reconvene for the purpose of studying his proposed legislation to establish a separate independent Transit Authority, with the ITA to finance and build a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. This legislation was previously withdrawn after Montgomery House Delegation public hearing. MCCF opposed this legislation for many reasons, including the intent to circumvent the Charter limit on property taxes.”



“The County Executive has requested that the Task Force issue a report by September 30, 2015. Two committees for the Task Force have been created, a Finance Committee and a Transfer of Public Functions Committee. A public forum is planned to receive feedback on Wednesday, June 17th at 6:00 PM in the County Council Hearing Room. For additional information on the Task Force visit <http://www6.montgomerycounty.gov/apps/cex/transit2015/meeting.asp>. Despite the earlier setback, it seems clear that County Executive Leggett plans to pursue this separate financial transit authority.”

Stopping Scams and Fraud

A Consumer Guide for Seniors, and useful for everyone, comes from the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. Topics with recommendations include Telemarketing Calls and Junk Mail, Home Improvement Scams, Identity Theft, Financial Exploitation, Home Equity Fraud, and Predatory Lending. The Attorney General’s Office also sponsors Project SAFE, an initiative to combat financial exploitation. The contact number is (410) 576-6550. To report suspected financial exploitation call the Maryland Department of Human Resources toll free at 800-917-7383.



School System Budget

On March 9th, Steve Farber and Joe Beach provided the Montgomery County Civic Federation with an overview of the School System’s budget. The County in general is experiencing increased growth and development, along with more urbanization.

Several Elementary schools have been singled out for construction studies: Montgomery Knolls, New Hampshire Estates, Oak View, Pine Crest, and Sligo Creek . Further information can be obtained at:

www.montgomeryschools.org/departments/construction/studies/docesstudy.shtm.

\$640 million in grants is not reflected in the school system budget. The state law for maintenance of effort (MOE) protects cutting per pupil funding. Montgomery College has its own MOE requirement.

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Bel Pre Recreational News

by Elliot Chabot
President, Bel Pre Recreational Association

Opening Day

The pool opened for the 2015 summer season May 23!

May 23 to June 15 hours

Monday-Friday 3:00 to 8:00
Saturday-Sunday noon to 9:00

June 16 to August 30 hours

(the last day of public school summer vacation):
Every day noon to 9:00 (except July 4)
July 4th noon to 7:00



August 31 to Labor Day (September 5th)

Monday-Friday 3:00 to 8:00
Saturday-Sunday noon to 9:00

In addition to the pool, the volley-ball court, pavilion, ping pong tables, foosball, children's playgrounds, and book lending library will be open the same hours as the pool.

Pavilion Reservations

If you would like to reserve the pavilion for a family event, please contact Louisa Hoar, our Pavilion Usage Coordinator, at (301) 603-8805. In certain circumstances, the pavilion can be reserved for after hours times, as well as during regular pool hours.



Flippers

Our pool's snack bar, flippers, is running full steam ahead this year, thanks to LAURA and GREG MILLER and their family. Hours of operation are posted at the pool.

Tennis Court and Basketball Court

The community tennis courts and basket ball court are all available year round. Every household who is a member of the Bel Pre Recreational Association is entitled to a key to the tennis courts. If you don't currently have a key, contact LOUISA HOAR and she would be happy to provide one.

Summer Entertainment Series

This year's summer entertainment series, provided under the leadership of the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, and hosted by the Bel Pre Recreational Association, will feature:

Saturday, May 30 movie night	8:30 pm - How to Train Your Dragon
Saturday, June 20 live music night	7:00 pm –The Bubbas Band (Elizabeth and Phil Kominski)
Saturday, July 25 movie night	8:30 pm - Guardians of the Galaxy
Saturday, August 29 live music night	7:00 pm – Band to be chosen
Saturday, September 5 movie night	8:00 pm - X-Men: Days of Future Past

The Entertainment and Recreation Committee is also planning a karaoke night (or maybe even a community talent night) for sometime this summer. More details will be announced at the pool, in the Strathmore Bel Pre list serve, and on the Strathmore Bel Pre website (<http://strathmore-belpre.org/>).

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Gleanings From Meetings + More

(continued from page 4)

Montgomery County Budget – current factors

The County Ride-On Bus system receives about \$120 million. Highway maintenance receives about \$45 million. Two items that are not included in the general budget are liquor control and parking. Additionally, approximately \$15 to \$17 million has been realized from ambulance fees. Yet, the regional economy has declined approximately 1%, and home sales are down a similar 1%.

A factor affecting the County's budget is the shift from the State to the County to fund a portion of teacher pensions, about \$80 million. The State's requirement relating to the maintenance of effort (MOE) impacts the County's present budget, because of the \$576 million above the MOE requirement that Montgomery County provided to the school system in 2009 and 2010.



2016 School System Budget Characteristics:

- 2,500 more students this year
- 90% goes to salaries and benefits for staff
- Generous defined benefit plans for school staff
- A sizeable amount of the County's debt service goes to the schools
- 2% cost of living increase for all school staff
- 3.5% increase for all school staff not at the top of their grade.

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Wishing you and yours ...



... a Happy Fourth of July !

*And, when you are ready
to make your move....
Please call Lilla!*



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CRS, GRI**

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301-518-7818 (direct)**

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Think Dolphins, Think Pool, Think Running!

by Claire Pak

Runners, walkers, and stroller-pushers came out in force on a beautiful Memorial Day morning for the first annual Dolphin 5K Run, the 2015 Dolphin Dash!

THANK YOU to all of our neighbors, volunteers, and especially our sponsors. We could not have staged such a successful and fun the generous financial support of several local businesses.



Please patronize the following businesses whenever possible:

PAULETTE LADAS, ReMax Town Center.

Paulette's generosity to the Dolphins, and to our Civic Association, our neighborhood PTAs, and Boy Scout troop is legendary. She has been an unfailing supporter of any and all events and projects that benefit our community. We're lucky to have her!

The Angel's Garden Assisted Living Home
Vecna Technologies
EagleRider of DC
Gill Precision Automotive



#1 Pools
Redbird Photography
DR. DAVID SCHLUTZ, DMD
DR. ALLAN YOCKELSON, DDS

Many other families also made individual contributions, and we continue to be overwhelmed by our neighborhood's generosity and support for our team. We are deeply grateful.

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For all your real estate needs: sales, purchases, retirement communities, condominiums, relocation and financing info...

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Email: pauletteladas@remax.net



Think Dolphins, Think Running

(Continued from page 12)

Thanks and congratulations! to our runners, especially our top ten finishers:

1. Ebenezer Arunkumar
2. Christopher Majano
3. Emerson Miller
4. Winston Miller
5. Robel Asfaw
6. Conroy Zien
7. Drew Hensley
8. Jordan Edwards
9. Ian Virga
10. Erika Binsley



Over 100 runners finished the challenging course. Congratulations to all and we hope to see you again next year!



Photo Contest 2015: Life In Strathmore Bel Pre

by Chris Swan

Summer is perfect for our second photo contest! This contest features a theme, Life in Strathmore Bel Pre. Simply take or collect your best photos of life in our community! Winners of the contest are eligible to receive prizes, and their photos will be published in *The Bugle*, and featured on the Strathmore Bel Pre website.

The Rules:

1. To enter, please email your photo to: echabot@usa.net by October 15th, 2015.
2. Photos must be at least 940 pixels wide by 410 pixels high, and should be in JPG, PNG, or GIF format.
3. Entries will be posted on the Civic Association website.
4. Winning entries will be chosen by a panel of your neighbors, including Gabi Wright, certified photographer, and frequent contributor to the Bugle.
 - a) First prize \$ 50
 - b) Second prize \$ 25
 - c) Third prize \$ 15
 - d) Honorable Mention \$ 10
5. More than one photo per person may be submitted, but only one prize may be won per person.
6. All submissions become property of the Civic Association, which may use them on the website and in *The Bugle*.

Our Physical Plant – 50 Years!

Our pool facilities are approaching their 50-year mark. The Recreational Association was formed in 1966 and the Strathmore Bel Pre Pool opened in May of 1969. While Celebrations and Congratulations certainly are in order, enabling the facilities to last another 50 years is a priority of the Recreational Association.

At last year's annual general membership meeting, I reported on the 10 year study prepared for us by Ponte Mellor Architects, Ltd. on the life expectancy of major components of our pool and related facilities. A copy of that study is available on the BPRA website at <http://strathmore-belpre.org/bpra-governing-documents/> under the headings "Budget and Maintenance" and "Long-range planning studies". If you have not already read the report, then please do.

The website also features an independent engineering review of the pool's pump room and the previous 10 year study from 2002.



For the last year, the BPRA Board of Trustees has been examining strategies to implement and fund the repairs and replacements needed to keep our community facility operational. I expect that the Board will be finalizing its recommendations in the next few months. Special thanks to KIM WATTERS who has been coordinating the Board's review of the pump room, to LARRY VAUGHT who has been reviewing the fiscal implications of the Ponte recommendations, and to JAY STAGGS for his technical advice to the Board.

The current annual assessment (\$225 per household per year) was set in 2005, 10 years ago. With 709 households in the BPRA, this generates approximately \$160,000 per year. Estimates on the cost of repairing or replacing the pump room have been all over the map. If the estimate contained in the 2014 Ponte report (\$130,000) ends up being the actual cost, we will need funding beyond the current annual assessment. Further developments will be posted in The Bugle, the website and the list serve.

2015-2016 Annual Budget

In accordance with section 112.2(d)(2) of the Maryland Homeowners Association Act, the Board of Trustees will consider and adopt the 2015-2016 annual budget of the BPRA on Wednesday, June 24, at the pavilion at the Strathmore Bel Pre Pool, 13920 Bethpage Lane, Aspen Hill, MD 20906.

The 2015-2016 budget covers March 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016. A copy of the proposed budget was mailed to all of the members of the BPRA in October of 2014.

The budget was presented at the November 20, 2014 BPRA General Membership meeting, and a copy is available at

<http://strathmore-belpre.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Bel-Pre-2015-Budget-with-2014-outlook-3.pdf>.

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Dolphin Dash

Congratulations to the STRATHMORE BEL PRE DOLPHINS SWIM TEAM for successfully conducting the their 1st annual Dolphins 5K -- allowing the neighborhood to run, jog, walk, or stagger for 3+ miles in our community on a beautiful Memorial Day morning.

Thank you to the organizers, volunteers, supporters, and sponsors for taking the idea of this event and turning it into a reality.

Some additional BPRA activities since the last issue of The Bugle are:

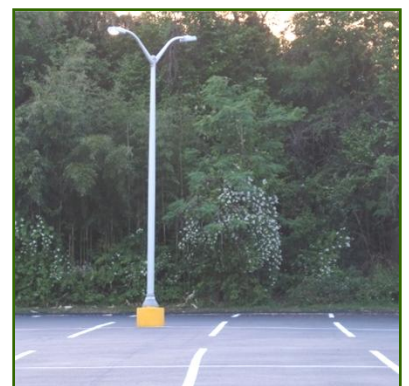
Professional Parking has re-striped, relabeled, and resealed the parking lot.

❖ Thanks to GREG MILLER for coordinating this work.

Adams Mfg. Corp. has supplied 2 dozen new chairs for the pavilion.

These Brentwood-style chairs have squared off backs.

❖ Thanks to BILLY RUPERT for making this happen.



The fencing surrounding the pool is now fully compliant with Montgomery County Government standards. Pest Now has treated the hill by the pavilion (including the volleyball area) to eliminate the ground bees that have nested there. This continues treatments that began in May of 2014. It is expected that we will need to continue the treatments for several years. Kollins Lawn and Landscaping Service has begun cutting the grass at the pool and Fairway Lawn Care has been weeding and seeding.

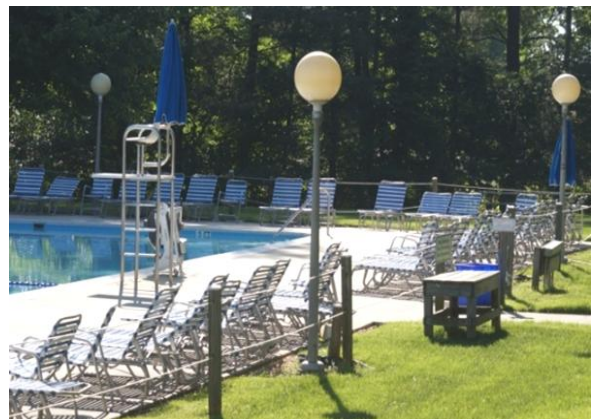
G & Q General Construction ground the Concrete pad by the men's room door to allow free movement of the door.

❖ Thanks to PAULETTE LADAS for coordinating the fencing, bee control, lawn, and concrete work.

Gaithersburg Hauling (Waste Management, Inc.) has resumed trash pick ups at the pool.

❖ Thanks to BRENDA HENRY for coordinating that contract.

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Tennis Courts

The tennis courts (also located at 13920 Bethpage Lane) are open year round to all BPRA members. If you want to use the tennis courts, but don't have a key, contact LOUISA HOAR - our Tennis Court Keys Coordinator - at (301) 871-6298 and she'll help you get what you need.

Upcoming Meetings

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet as follows for June to December 2015:

Meeting Date and Time	Location
Wednesday, June 24, 7:30 pm	Strathmore Bel Pre Pool Pavilion
Wednesday, July 15, 7:30 pm, tentative	Strathmore Bel Pre Pool Pavilion
Wednesday, July 29, 7:30 pm	Strathmore Bel Pre Pool Pavilion
Wednesday, August 12, 7:30 pm, tentative	Strathmore Bel Pre Pool Pavilion
Wednesday, August 26, 7:30 pm	Strathmore Bel Pre Pool Pavilion
Saturday, September 12, 10 am	Strathmore Bel Pre Pool Pavilion
Wednesday, September 30, 7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School conference room 138
Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School conference room 138
Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School conference room 138

All members of the Association are welcome to attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees. The first 15 minutes of each meeting is normally set aside for statements by members of the Association.



General Membership Meeting

The **2015 General Membership Meeting** is currently scheduled to be held on **Thursday, November 19, at 7:30 pm at Bel Pre Elementary School**, in the multi-purpose room.

Town Hall Meeting

A Town Hall Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, at 8 pm, at Bel Pre Elementary School.

For current information on Board of Trustees meetings and meetings of the Association's committees, see the BPRA website at <http://strathmore-belpre.org/bpra/>.

Gleanings From Meetings + More

(continued from page 6)

County Budget

Approximately 55% of the County budget goes to the school system.

2016 budget factors:

- Federal budget uncertainties
- State budget uncertainties – budget reductions and cuts in State aid
- High structural cost increases – debt service, retiree health, reserves, compensation and benefits
- State mandated MOE spending requirements for MCPS and Montgomery College
- Deferred infrastructure maintenance
- Operating impact of new facilities – libraries, school, college, recreation centers and fire stations
- Unavoidable cost increases related to energy costs, snow removal and inflation



For FY16, the County is on the path to sustainability by:

- Closing \$2.9B in budget gaps over the past eight years
- Slowing the rate of growth in expenditures
- Successfully implementing plans to increase reserves, on track to reach 10% of goal by 2020
- Increasing funding for retiree health insurance, fully funding the annual requirement in 2015
- Permanent long term reductions for employee compensation, group insurance, health insurance and pensions, reducing over 1,200 positions in the FY08-12 period

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Cub Scout Pack 763

By Jackie Fairy-Moeller

On Saturday morning of Memorial Day weekend, the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of Unit 763 placed an American flag by the grave-site of every Veteran buried in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Over 1,000 flags were placed. Scouting is often at its best when it is involved with the local community. The boys found great meaning in honoring the lives of those who served and then lived in this community. This is a very meaningful experience for the boys who learn a great deal about the different branches of the military. Many in our community have friends and neighbors buried at Gate of Heaven cemetery.



The scouts would like to thank Ms. PAULETTE LADAS of RE/MAX Town Center for providing the financial support for this activity by covering the cost of the American flags.

The scouts are sponsored by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association but do not receive money from it. We rely on community partners like Ms. Ladas to keep our costs down to insure that being a scout is affordable for every member of the community.

Over 70% of scout groups are sponsored by a faith-based organization, so we appreciate the sponsorship of the civic association. This sponsorship allows our unit to be more reflective of the community. While our pack draws from Bel Pre, Strathmore, Georgian Forest, Brookhaven and Harmony Hills elementary schools, your child does NOT have to go to one of these schools in order to be a member of our pack.

We would also like to thank Mary Magdalene Church for providing us with meeting and activity space free of charge, and saving us a ton of money!



Join Cub Scouts Pack 763

If you are interested in joining our pack, please contact Cubmaster BILL TOTTEN at wandst@juno.com or JACKIE FARY-MOELLER at jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com



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50 Plus Club Meetings

by Maury Potosky



The 50s Plus Club summer meetings are held at the BPR Pool Pavilion. The meetings will be held on Wednesdays: July 8, August 5, and September 2 at 6 PM. The meetings will be dinner meetings with each member bringing their own dinner. Members also are asked to bring a dessert to share with other members.

Residents who are not members of the 50s Plus Club, but who wish to share in the club's activities, are invited to join us at these meetings. Please call us at 301-460-9008. We would love to have you join us!



Gleanings From Meetings + More

(continued from page 12)

County Transportation Planning

At the request of the County Executive IKE LEGGETT, Montgomery County is studying the development of a possible Rapid Transit System including Bus Rapid Transit which would run in the Route 355 corridor, the Route 29 corridor and along Viers Mill Road. This is in addition to the proposed Purple Line and the Corridor Cities Transit Way.

Charter Schools

On May 13, 2015, Jenne Allen made a presentation to the Taxpayers League about Charter Schools. While there are Charter Schools in the District of Columbia and 43 states, there are none in Montgomery County. Ms Allen felt that resistance by teachers' unions and members of the State Legislative is the primary reason for the limited number of Charter Schools in Maryland. She stressed that Charter Schools are "public" schools. Baltimore City has 31 charter schools, and Prince Georges County has 10. Both have school districts with large numbers of at-risk students. The first Charter School in the country was in St. Paul, Minnesota. In New York, the State University of New York Chancellor's Office is responsible for Charter Schools.

The 7,000 Charter Schools nationwide serve 3 million students. 63% of the Charter Schools nationwide serve 60% at-risk students. Of the 54% of African-American students graduating from high school, only 12% graduate from college four years later.



Most Charter Schools enroll students by lottery. They are not school systems per se, but rather are systems of schools. In Charter Schools, funds follow the student rather than remaining at a given school, as is the case in the average school system. Ms Allen noted that Charter Schools are comprehensive with their inclusion of health safety, civil rights and good programs, and are flexible.

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Gleanings From Meetings + More

(continued from page 14)

Costco Gas Station

Costco lost its Special Exception Request before the Planning Board, 5 – 0, after 5 years. Seven members of the County Council recently introduced ZTA 15-07, Proximity of Mega Gas Stations to Neighborhoods, to ensure that the lessons learned from the hard work of the Opposition to Costco's Special Exception Request (S-2863) did not go to waste, as reported Karen Cordry, President of the Kensington Heights Civic Association.

Costco has issued a letter to its customers noting that they have been seeking a gas station at their location at Westfield Wheaton Regional Mall since 2010. They have appealed the decision to the Montgomery Zoning Board of Appeals. Their appeal alleges that the County overstepped its authority, and substituted its judgment instead of relying upon the judgment of the agencies charged with determining safe emission levels.

Transportation Planning

The April issue of Civic Federation News described alternatives ready now to improve transportation services. Houston, Texas used a data driven approach to redesign its bus service, called Reimagining Transit:

(<http://transitsystemreimagining.com/web/>).

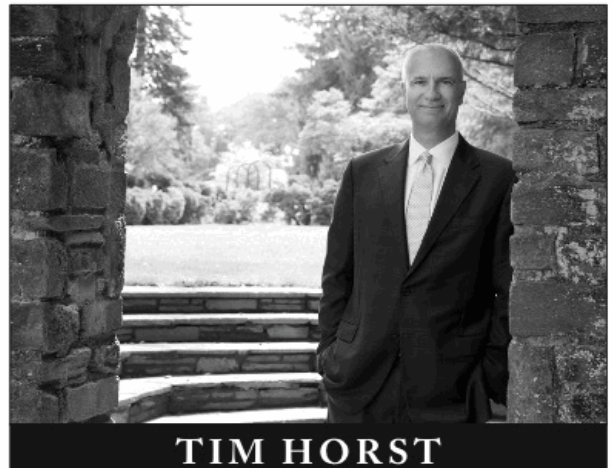
Local bus service in Houston will:

- Provide its most populated areas with service on a 15 minute frequency, including Sundays
- Enable 90% of routes to be 10 to 20 minutes faster
- Provide 99% of riders to be within ¼ mile of a stop
- Allow bus drivers to divert from their routes for on-demand pickup and drop-offs, where street patterns make regular bus transit difficult

These major improvements in transit service are funded by reallocating about 25% of existing resources. The data analyses for this plan cost \$1.2 million. Houston will go from planning to implementation in about a year and a half.

**I have served the
Strathmore at Bel Pre
neighborhood for
30 years.**

*The experience is there...
let it work for you.*



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  LEADING REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES *of* THE WORLD



Aspen Hill Library News

by Chris Swan



Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration – June 20, 2015 -- 1pm

The seventh annual Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration will be held at the Aspen Hill Library on Saturday, June 20th. The dance troupe, White House Studios *featuring* Caribbean Dance Traditions, will be performing, as well as a band, a story teller, crafts and more. Bring the whole family for a lovely summer afternoon of entertainment!

Monday Night Movies

The movies continue during the summer. Films begin at 7:30 and admission is free.

June 29th

Eragon, the story of a boy and his dragon. Action, adventure, fantasy.

July 27

Monday Night Movie

August 31

Monday Night Movie

Summer Reading 2015 – Super Heroes

Programs at the Library in the Community Room:

June 13	1 pm	4H Reading Buddies
June 18	11 am	Agricultural Fair – See a Farm Animal!
June 20	11 am	Caribbean Summer Reading Kickoff
June 22	11 am	Science Tellers – Super Heroes
June 25	11 am	Paul Merklein – How to Draw Superheroes
June 27	11 am	Books are a Blast! With Tom Lilly
July 1	11 am	Maryland Zoo– Habitat Happenings
July 7	4 pm	Captain All Star Magical Reading
July 11	1 pm	4H Reading Buddies
July 15	4 pm	Hedgehog Heroes
July 18	1:30 pm	Robotics Demonstration – University of Maryland
July 21	11 am	Mad Science: Spectacular Science
July 25	1 pm	Free PSAT practice Test from Kaplan
July 28	6:30 pm	Make-It-Yourself SuperHero Bookends
July 30	6:30 pm	College Application Education Workshop from Kaplan

For the latest program listings, visit the Library or go to

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Libraries/branchinfo/ah.asp>.



Book and Other Donations always are accepted by the Friends, but not at the Library

If you would like to donate used books, CDs, or DVDs for the Aspen Hill Friends of the Library Book sales, e-mail the Friends at aspenhill@folmc.org, or call us at (301) 871-1113. The Aspen Hill Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations are tax deductible. Please do not bring donations to the library, as staff are not able to accept them. **Just contact the Aspen Hill Friends, thanks.** The Fall book sale this year is Saturday, October 17th!

2015 Dolphin Season Underway

by Claire Pak



Summer 2015 is here for the Dolphins!

Our 2015 season is underway! Practice began on Wednesday, May 27, but it's not too late to sign up. If you're still interested in participating, please email Terry Kominski or any member of the board. We'll be happy to provide you with information. Information is also available on our website: <http://sbpdolphins.org/>. Swimmer registration is online this year, and the registration link is on our website.

A copy of our 2015 calendar and meet schedule appears in this issue of the Bugle. Although our meet schedule is set, other events are subject to change, so please visit the pool bulletin board or our website for calendar and event updates.

Meet our 2015 Coaching Staff

Terry Kominski—Head Coach. Dolphins legend.

Lilan Miller—Assistant Coach. A Dolphins graduate, Lilan served as a Developmental Coach for three years, and this is her second year as Assistant Coach. She is a past Swimmer of the Year with many All-Star and Divisionals appearances to her credit, and is a rising junior at the University of Maryland. Lilan is certified as both a lifeguard and a pool operator and has many years of lifeguarding experience.

Emma Bearman—Developmental Coach. This is Emma's second year as a Developmental Coach. Emma has been a Dolphins swimmer for many years, and has also been a star swimmer at Kennedy High School and for RMSC. Her Dolphins career has included many Divisionals and All-Star appearances, and as a high school swimmer, she was invited to participate in Metro, Regional, and State Championship meets. Emma is a rising sophomore at BYU, and this will be her last year as a Dolphins swimmer!

-- continued on page 18 --

THE BULLETIN BOARD – Updates from your neighborhood schools

Will return in the Fall Issue of the Bugle

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Georgian Forest ES PTA

School phone: 301-460-2170

website: <https://sites.google.com/site/gfespta/>

Bel Pre Strathmore PTA

Bel Pre: 301 460 2145

Strathmore: 301 460 2135

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123760599438>

website: <http://bps-pta.org>





Winston Miller—Developmental Coach Winston has also been a Dolphins swimmer for many years, and is also returning for his second year as a Developmental Coach. He is a graduate of the Kennedy High School swim team and will enter the University of Maryland in the fall. Winston has made many Divisionals and All-Star appearances, and he has shown a great talent for teaching even the youngest and most reluctant swimmers.

Kayla Geary—Developmental Coach Kayla, too, is a long-time Dolphins swimmer with many Divisionals appearances and coaches' awards to her credit, and is also returning for her second summer on the coaching staff. She is a graduate of the Sherwood High School swim team and will attend Albright College in the fall.

We are very proud of our coaching staff. They are all certified lifeguards and accomplished swimmers, and we're lucky enough to have 5 returning coaches, so they have experience as well as talent and energy. Terry, Lilan, Emma, Winston, and Kayla are all dedicated to our team and our children and we're very happy to have all of them back for another great season!

Thank you to all of our friends and neighbors for your continued support, financial and otherwise. We look forward to another fun and successful season. Please contact any member of the Dolphins board for more information.

See you at the pool!

GREG MILLER	President	winstonhen@aol.com
MIKE BEARMAN	Vice-President	mbearman@vecna.com
CLAIRE PAK	Secretary	cdaltonpak@yahoo.com
RITA VAUGHT	Treasurer	r.vaught@comcast.net
RENEE YOCKELSON	A Meet Manager	yocks@verizon.net
MARTA FERMAN	B Meet Manager	ferman2@verizon.net
TERRY KOMINSKI	Head Coach	mermade1967@aol.com



President's Corner (continued from page 3)

July 4th FUN!

Please plan to attend our 4th of July activities this year; you will not be disappointed! LILLA and BILL HAMMOND and HARRY KLAPPER have been organizing these activities for decades now. They always can use more help especially with the afternoon field games at the pool. It is such a great way to see all of the children who live in our neighborhood be part of the Parade; so please plan to join in the fun that day.

I look forward to seeing every neighbor at some point this summer, during at least one of these lovely summer activities! We have many to pick from, so do something new and different this summer. Get involved in the wonderful neighborhood we all call home!

2015 Strathmore Bel Pre Summer Calendar

~ May/June/July 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Pool Hours May 23 to June 15: Mon to Fri 3 pm to 8 pm Sat & Sun noon to 9 pm	Pool Hours June 16 to August 30: Every day noon to 9 pm July 4 th noon to 7 pm	Pool Hours Aug 31 to Closing: Mon-Fri 3 pm to 8 pm Sat & Sun noon to 9 pm		May 22 Early registration deadline for Dolphin Dash	23 Pool Opens at noon
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY No Pool Guest Fees Dolphin Dash 5K Run	26 Swim Team Swimmers Meeting Civic Association Board meeting	27 Swim Team pm practices begin Rec Association Board Meeting	28	29 Career Day - Georgian Forest Elem. School	30 Yard Sale (rain date June 6) How to Train Your Dragon Movie Night
31	June 1 Swim team pm practices all week	2	3 50s Plus Meeting	4	5 Swim Team Parents Meeting	6 Aspen Hill Library used book sale 50 Plus concert @ Fitzgerald Theatre
7	8 Swim Team pm practices all week	9	10	11 Strathmore Elem. School 5 th Grade promotion	12 Swim Team Ice Cream Social	13 Swim Team Blue-White Meet Friends of Aspen Hill Library meeting
14 50 Plus concert @ Fitzgerald Theatre	15 MCPS Last Day of School Longer Pool Hours begin tomorrow Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee meeting	16 Swim Team am practices begin Swim Team Buddy Breakfast	17	18	19 Swim Team Pasta Party No Swim Team pm practice	20 Swim Team A Meet at Home HCC A.H. Library Caribbean Heritage Celebration The Bubbas Band Concert Evening
21	22	23 Swim Team Swimathon (am and pm practices) Civic Association Board Meeting	24 B Meet Away @ Wheaton Woods Rec Association Board Meeting	25	26 Swim Team Pasta Party No Swim Team pm practice	27 Swim Team A Meet Away @ FW
28	29 Aspen Hill Library movie night: <i>Eragon</i>	30	July 1 B Meet Away @ West Laurel	2	3 Swim Team Memorial Meet am Swim Team Pasta Party No Swim Team pm Practice	July 4th Pool open 12 noon to 7 pm No Pool Guest Fees Swim Team A Meet Away @ GM Parade 12 noon Entertainment 1 pm Field Games 2:30

2015 Strathmore Bel Pre Summer Calendar

~ July/August/September 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	6	7	8 B Meet At Home Kemp Mill 50s Plus Meeting	9	10 Swim Team Pasta Party Swim Team no pm Practice	11 Swim Team A Meet Away @ KLS
July 12	13	14	15 Rec Association Board Meeting (tentative)	16	17	18 Swim Team A Meet at Home AR Swim Team Dolphin Dance
19	20 Swim Team 8U Practice Swim Team Divisionals Practice	21 Swim Team 8U Practice Swim Team Divisionals Practice	22 Swim Team Jelly Bean Meet Swim Team Last 8U Practice Swim Team Divisionals Practice	23 Swim Team Divisionals Practice am and pm	24 Swim Team Pasta Party with Paper Plate Awards Swim Team Divisionals Practice am	25 Swim Team B Division Championships at Home Guardians of the Galaxy Movie Night
26	27 Aspen Hill Library movie night	28 Civic Association Board Meeting	29 Swim Team Awards Banquet Rec Association Board Meeting	30	31	August 1 Swim Team PMSL All-Stars Whitehall Pool
2	3	4	5 50s Plus Meeting	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Rec Association Board Meeting (tentative)	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Rec Association Board Meeting	27	28	29 Concert Night
30	31 MCPS School Year Starts Shorter Pool Hours begin	September 1	2 50s Plus Meeting	3	4	5 X Men: Days of Future Past Movie Night
6	7 Labor Day No Pool Guest Fees	8	9	10	11	12 Rec Association Board meeting

2015 Summer Entertainment!

by John Bogasky and Chris Swan

Three movies and two concerts are set for the 2015 Summer Entertainment Series!

Each event is on a Saturday night at the Pool Pavilion and grounds, and is open to all Civic and Recreational Association members and guests.

The Civic Association purchased a brand new screen, projector and sound system to show the movies, in place of a rental program. The cost of the movie projection system is expected to be recouped in 3 to 4 years, given that no funds now will be needed to rental the equipment.

Volunteers are needed to help use the equipment to show the movies. Contact John Bogasky if you can help.

Your challenge:

Support 2015 Summer Entertainment

In order to make this a new STRATHMORE BEL PRE tradition, we will need financial support from the community.

We have a great start! Each of our 4 lead sponsors, LILLA HAMMOND of Long & Foster, PAULETTE LADAS of RE/MAX, TIM HORST of Long & Foster, and the Bel Pre Recreational Association have pledged at the SBP Superstar level. Community members have committed additional funds.

We need your support to fully fund our planned events.

2015

Summer Entertainment Series

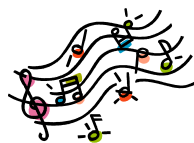
- 5/30 – How to Train Your Dragon
- 6/20 – The Bubbas
(folk rock, Elizabeth and Phil Kominski
with Donnie Williams and Chris Brooks)
- 7/25 – Guardians of the Galaxy
- 8/29 – Concert (any thoughts?)
- 9/5 – X Men: Days of Future Past
- ?? – Karaoke night to be decided

Plan to attend

2015

Recognition	Donation
SBP Superstar	\$ 500
Community Champion	\$ 250
Oscar Winner	\$ 100
Band Leader	\$ 50
Super Fan	\$ 5 to 25

You can be a BAND LEADER! A SUPER FAN?
How about an OSCAR WINNER? **The perfect gift for your 2015 Summer!**



Please contact Civic Association Treasurer JOHN BOGASKY at johnbogasky@hotmail.com to make your donations! With your support, we can create a new community tradition that takes advantage of our beautiful pool facilities, is fun for everyone, and brings our community together!

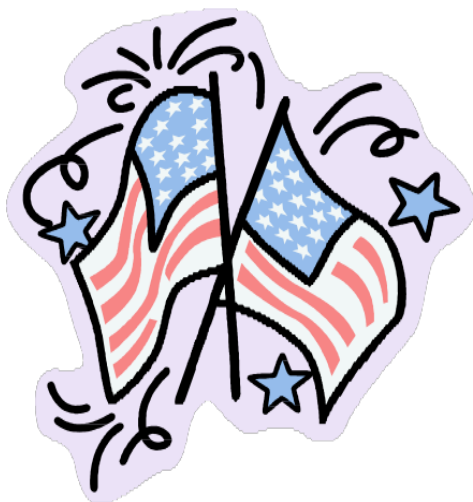
Strathmore Bel-Pre – 2015 July 4th Celebration!!

The Strathmore
Bel Pre Community
likes to celebrate
July 4th!

The Celebration
team needs your
help. We need
your assistance!

Are you able to
help us out this
year? Any and all
efforts are needed.

THANKS!



**Help make our July 4th
Celebration the best yet!**
Thanks!

Please volunteer to make
our community's July 4th
Celebration special **this
year** by selecting from the
list below.

We welcome your ideas and
talents!

- ☐ Parade Committee
- ☐ Entertainment
- ☐ Decorations, Signs
- ☐ Field Games



Help Our Community Celebrate July 4th 2015

YES! Count me in! to help with the Strathmore Bel-Pre July 4th Celebration.

NAME _____

PHONE/E-MAIL _____

_____ **PARADE.....11:30 - 1:00 pm (Registration and Safety)**
_____ **ENTERTAINMENT.....12:30 pm - 2:30 pm**
_____ **FIELD GAMES.....2:00 pm to 3:30 pm)**
_____ **DECORATIONS & SIGNS....On July 4th and before ☺**

Please fax this form to 301-770-9654 Attn: Lilla
OR send an email to
hkjsbk@msn.com and w.m.hammond@verizon.net



THANKS VERY MUCH! THE JULY 4TH CELEBRATION TEAM